

- (b) the steps taken in this regard by now;
- (c) the targets and achievements during 1996-97 in this regard; and
- (d) whether all necessary clearance have been given by the Finance Ministry for such mobilisation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) During the year 1997-98, IRFC is targeted to raise Rs. 2150 crore consisting of about Rs. 1610 crore domestic borrowing and Rs. 540 crore external borrowing.

(b) IRFC have issued taxable and tax-free bonds in the domestic market. IRFC has also raised US\$ 180 million through a Floating Rate Note issue in the international market.

(c) The target of raising Rs. 1850 crore during the year 1996-97 was achieved.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Introduction of Train between Faizabad and New Delhi

3627. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to run a new train daily between Faizabad and New Delhi via Pratapgarh and Allahabad;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to provide the stoppages of trains running between Faizabad and Allahabad at each railway station;
- (d) If so, the details thereof;
- (e) the efforts made by the Government to provide a stoppage of trains at Dhirganj railway station falling in between Bareilly-Lucknow-Pratapgarh-Allahabad-Mughal Sarai route;
- (f) whether all the arrangements for providing passenger amenities and booking of tickets at Dhirganj railway station are being made by the contractors;
- (g) If so, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the steps taken by the Government for not awarding the contracts to contractors in future keeping in view their bad performances?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a weekly express train between Muzaffarpur and Delhi via Faizabad, Lucknow and Moradabad has been introduced from 06.08.97.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Provision of stoppages of additional trains at Dhirganj Railway station has been examined but not found justified.

(f) and (g) Dhirganj is a halt station where all passenger amenities except booking of tickets and cleanliness of platforms have been provided by the Railway. Booking of tickets and cleaning of platforms are being done by the contractor.

(h) The contracts are awarded only to the contractors whose past performance is satisfactory.

Religious Serials

3628. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSIWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the religious serials approved by Doordarshan for telecast during 1997-98; and

(b) the time by which these new religious serials are likely to be telecast and the number of days in a week alongwith the duration thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No religious serial has been approved during the year 1997-98.

(b) Does not arise.

Misappropriation of Funds

3629. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was misappropriation of funds of construction of buildings and other departmental works, such as staff quarters, in Ranchi, Dhanbad, Muzaffarpur and Jamshedpur Telecom district under Bihar Telecom circle;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Migration of Rural People from Madhya Pradesh

3630. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of the unemployed landless persons belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes in Madhya Pradesh have to migrate to other States due to ever-increasing unemployment problem in the State; and

(b) If so, the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPY YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurances Schemes (EAS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) are major rural employment programmes being implemented by the Centre throughout the country including the State of Madhya Pradesh to provide employment to rural poor living below the poverty line. According to existing guidelines, preference is given to those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe communities.

Out of various employment programmes, assured employment of at least hundred days of unskilled manual work to rural poor who are in need of employment and seeking it during lean agricultural season is provided under EAS.

[English]

Kuttipuram-Guruvayur Railway Line

3631. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4099 on 19.12.1996 reg. Survey of Railway Line and state:

- (a) whether the alignment of the Kuttipuram-Guruvayur railway line in Kerala has since been decided;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the estimated cost and the total distance of the proposed line;
- (d) the time by which the said line will be completed; and
- (e) in case the alignment/results are not yet finalised, the reasons for the delay and the time by which they are expected to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The length of the alternative alignment vary from 30 km. to 50 km. and the cost from Rs. 68 crs. to Rs. 112 crs.
- (d) During the 10th plan.
- (e) There are four different alignment which have been recommended by the people representatives of the area. The relative merits and economics of these alignments are under examination in consultation with the Railway to determine the best alignment. The selection of alignment is likely to be completed within the next 2-3 months.

Doubling of Guntur-Vijayawada Rail Line

3632. SHRI K.S. RAYUDU :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to double railway line between Guntur and Vijayawada in view of increasing passenger traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to introduce a new train from Machilipatnam as requested by Railways mazdoor union;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railway Trade Unions at Vijayawada have urged the Railway authorities to divert iron ore traffic to Machilipatnam Port from Madras Port to reduce goods traffic in Madras; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The work of construction of third line between Vijayawada and Krishna Canal is currently in progress. The traffic on Krishna Canal-Guntur section has not yet reached the level, to justify its doubling.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. In a Memorandum submitted to Hon'ble Minister of Railways on 5.7.97, South Central Railway Mazdoor Union of Vijayawada Division had suggested diversion of iron ore traffic to Machilipatnam port.

(f) As and when necessary infrastructure is developed at Machilipatnam to handle this traffic by Port authorities, Railways can move the traffic.

[Translation]

Task Force

3633. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited propose to set up a 'Task Force' for the disposal of pending O.B. and to improve fault-repairing service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above task force is likely to be set up and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir. A Task Force has already been set up in MTNL Delhi for the disposal of pending OB's and to improve upon fault repairing services.